

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

13 November 2003

Ms. Meredith Fuchs
The National Security Archive
Gelman Library, Suite 701
2130 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037

Dear Ms. Fuchs:

This is in response to your 30 October 2003 letter regarding thirteen "old FOIA requests that remain pending despite the passage of 10 years." Specifically, your letter pertains to the status of the following National Security Archive Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests:

1. F-1988-00295/F-1992-01609 (Kornbluh)
2. F-1988-00542/F-1990-01884 (Chang)
3. F-1986-01367 (Shea)
4. F-1988-00792 (Richey)
5. F-1988-00882 (Mokoena/Galster)
6. F-1989-00843 (Armstrong)
7. F-1990-01865 (Chang)
8. F-1992-00802 (Kornbluh)
9. F-1987-01218/F-1990-01590 (Mokoena)
10. F-1987-00689/F-1990-01370 (Svolos)
11. F-1989-01505/F-1992-01610 (Armstrong)
12. F-1989-01132/F-1992-00896 (Kornbluh)
13. F-1991-01190 (Doyle)

Per your letter, we note your agreement that items 1 through 6 are closed and as such, no further action is required. Please note, our records indicate a final response to item 2 was sent on 23 October 2003.

For items 7 and 8, you wish to appeal our initial response. Our records indicate that these requests are closed and administratively, due to the amount of time that has passed since closing these requests, we cannot open

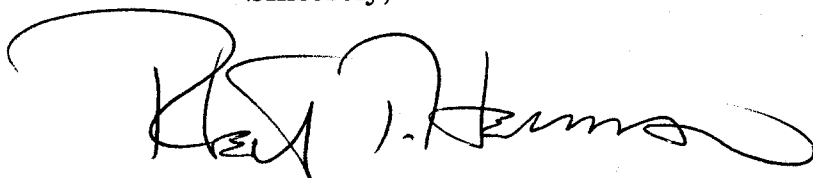
an appeal at this time. However, we can open new requests for each of these items, which will provide a new search and review and afford you the opportunity to appeal our response upon completion of the new requests. Separate correspondence will be forthcoming regarding the two new requests we are opening for items 7 and 8.

Our records indicate item 9 is currently in the appeal process. At this time, all of the Agency components involved in processing this request have completed their processing with the exception of one.

Concerning items 10 through 13, although the processing of requests is managed and directed by this office, as you are aware, the CIA's records systems are decentralized, diverse, and compartmented. This means that each of the various components within the Agency maintains its records separately for security reasons and indexes material in a way that is most efficient for its intelligence-related responsibilities. As such, the handling of requests by this agency is unique in that the search and any subsequent review must be conducted by intelligence officers with specialized knowledge and experience. Further, our response time is often predicated on the complexity of the request, which in many instances requires the review and coordination not only within our agency but also with other government agencies that might have sensitive equities at stake. Although this can create lengthy delays in responding to a given request, this process is necessary in order to fulfill the statutory obligation this agency has to protect intelligence sources and methods and other sensitive information.

We can appreciate your concern with not having received a final response to these requests. We have contacted each of the offices, which continue to process these requests and have asked them to make every effort to finish their work. We apologize for the delay and ask for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. T. Herman', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Robert T. Herman
Information and Privacy Coordinator

OIM/IRG/PIRD/[].../12 November 2003

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Distribution:

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